

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 AGRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7794
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3452

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IR
SUBJ: FURTHER ON PRO-GOVERNMENT RALLY IN TABRIZ

REF: TEHRAN 3406

1. CONSULATE TABRIZ HAS PICKED UP FURTHER ATMOSPHERICS
SURROUNDING APRIL 9 PRO-GOVERNMENT RALLY HELD IN THAT CITY.
CROWD, WHICH WAS INDEED VAST NUMBERING SEVERAL HUNDRED
THOUSAND, INCLUDED A NUMBER OF INVOLUNTARY PARTICIPANTS.
APPARENTLY MANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN SURROUNDING AREAS
WERE TOLD TO ATTEND OR RISK THEIR JOB RETENTION. ALL SCHOOLS
WERE CLOSED, AND SOME CHILDREN AT LEAST ADVISED TO ATTEND OR
FACE FAILURE FOR SCHOOL TERM.

2. THERE WAS SCATTERED VIOLENCE AT LOCAL UNIVERSITY DURING
RALLY WHEN STUDENTS MOUNTED ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION. IN
ANOTHER INCIDENT, UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS SMASHED CARS NEAR THE
BAZAAR, SHOUTING "BRING BACK KHOMEINI". ACCORDING TO LOCAL
EYE WITNESS INCIDENTS WERE BRIEF AND DID NOT SPREAD
BEYOND LOCALIZED AREAS.

3. MEANWHILE, THE PRESS REPORTED TODAY FURTHER DETAILS
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OF PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR'S SPEECH (REPORTED REFTTEL)
IN WHICH HE MADE SWEEPING PROMISES OF GOVERNMENT AID FOR
RURAL AREAS OF AZERBAIJAN. IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT
TABRIZ DEMONSTRATION AND TO COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL FARMERS,
AMOUZEGAR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE PROMISED GREATER MANPOWER
IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR; A STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES;
AGRICULTURAL LOANS TO

FARMERS AT EASY TERMS AND WITH A MINIMUM OF RED TAPE;
FORMATION OF A FARMERS UNION IN TABRIZ; NEW STORAGE
FACILITIES FOR FARM PRODUCE; 5,000 NEW UNITS OF WORKERS'
HOUSING; AND A SUBSTANTIAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW
SEWAGE SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF TABRIZ.

4. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK OFFICE LAST
AUGUST PROMISING THE COUNTRY THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
WOULD NO LONGER MAKE PROMISES OF FUTURE PROGRAMS. AFTER
MAINTAINING A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE FOR SOME MONTHS, AMOUZEGAR
HAS RATHER SPECTACULARLY BROKEN HIS PROMISE. IT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN IF OTHER AREAS OF IRAN WILL LEARN FROM THE
TABRIZ EXPERIENCE AND SEEK TO GAIN THE ATTENTION OF
THE GOVERNMENT BY SOME DRAMATIC GESTURE, THEREBY REAPING
GOVERNMENT BENEFITS.
SULLIVAN

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